REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Official Action dated August 30, 2001 and this Amendment is intended to be fully responsive to the Action.

The drawings were objected to because Figure 3 includes the same reference numeral "14" to denote different components. Applicant has submitted a drawing correction to Figure 3 changing "14" to --14''-- intended to overcome this objection. The specification was also amended to correctly denote elements "11" and "14". No new matter has been entered.

The Abstract was objected to for several informalities and inconsistencies noted by the Examiner. Applicant has reviewed and amended the Abstract to address each issue noted by the Examiner. It is noted that Applicant does not intend to imply anything about the "rigid coupling when the window lift is not in a lifting condition" as suggested by the Examiner. The Abstract and claims is only address one aspect of the invention about the "rigid coupling". No new matter been entered by Applicant's amendments.

The Title of the invention has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

The specification has been amended to overcome a number of issues raised by the Examiner in the paragraph abridging pages 3 and 4 of the specification. No new matter has been raised.

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for indefinite claim language. The claims have been reviewed and amended to comply with the requirement of 35 U.S.C. §112. It is noted that claim 5 has been amended to clarify that only one guide is necessarily part of the structure of claim 5. No new matter has been entered.

Claims 1-3 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication No. 642,256 (JP '256). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over JP '256 in view of Kimura et al. '443. Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '256 in view Marsholl et al. (presumably USP 4,984,386). These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

In an effort to assist the Examiner's understanding of JP '256, Applicant has attached hereto an unofficial translation of JP '256 obtained from the Japanese Patent Office as well as a color coded copy of Figures 2 and 11 of JP '256. The following discussion of JP '256 will make reference to color-coded Figures 2 and 11.

In JP '256, the window pane 5 (black lines) is attached to a carrier plate 6 (red lines) and the carrier plate 6 bears rollers (blue marks) 8, 10 and 7, 9 respectively, on each free end of the carrier plate 6.

Both free ends of a wire 12 (green lines) are attached to a hold down member 21 and a pulley 20. From pulley 20,the wire 12 is fed via roller 8 to roller 7, passes a first pulley 18 and is wound around rotating drum 13, driven by an electric motor into a rotary motion, is wound around a second pulley 19 and passes along rollers 9 and 10 to the hold down member 21.

To open or close the window pane, rotating drum 13 is set into respective rotation whereby rollers 7, 8, 9, 10 slide vertically up or down along guiding channels 3, 4. During this up/down movement, the wire 12 slides along rollers 7, 8, 9, 10 or rollers 7, 8, 9, 10 roll along the wire 12.

It is thus clear that JP '256 does not disclose actuators 12, 13 each being affixed to a respective one of the cable segments 3, 5. The actuators of JP '256 are rollers 7, 8, 9, 10. These rollers are not fixed to the wire 12 but roll along wire 12 during upward or downward movement of the window pane. Further, these actuators (rollers 7, 8, 9, 10) are not rigidly connected to each

other by a rigid coupling such that the actuators are non-movably and non-pivotally fixed to the rigid coupling in the lift operation condition. To the contrary, the rollers of JP '256 are set into rotation about a center axis during a lift operation of the window pane.

Based on these facts, JP '256 does not anticipated or render obvious the subject matter of amended claim 1.

It is noted that Applicant has added a new independent claim reciting an arrangement similar to claim 1 where the window pane is connected to the actuators. Support for this new claim is found page 7, 5th lines from bottom of this application. This feature is not shown in JP '256 because window pane 5 of JP '256 is attached to carrier plate 6 and not to the actuators (rollers 7, 8, 9, 10).

In view of the above amendment, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define the invention over the prior art of record and notice to that affect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe further discussion regarding the above claim language would expedite prosecution, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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IN THE TITLE

Please change the Title as follows:

"MOTOR-VEHICLE WINDOW LIFT WITH RIGIDLY COUPLED ACTUATORS IN THE LIFT-OPERATING POSITION" to

--MOTOR-VEHICLE WINDOW LIFT WITH RIGIDLY COUPLED ACTUATORS--.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract as follows.

A motor-vehicle window lift comprises a mounting structure, a drive [means] system, a cable system having two cable segments running substantially parallel to each other, reversing rollers for the cable system and two window-pane actuators each affixed to a respective one of the cable segments, [and] the actuators are displaceably guided [inside] along a respective guide [at] of the mounting [structures] structure, wherein the actuators are rigidly connected to each other by a rigid coupling such that the actuators are non-movably fixed to the rigid coupling in a lift operating condition.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification at page 7, lines 6-7 to recite the following.

Fig. 1 shows a first embodiment of the window lift of the invention.

Fig. 2 shows an alternate embodiment with the cable drive means 4 being configured more centrally, slightly laterally offset, relative to the guide 6.

Fig. 3 shows an alternate embodiment with the mounting structure 2'' consisting of several parts and illustratively includes a sheetmetal support 15'' for the drive means 4'', for the braces 17'' supporting the reversing rollers 10'' and further sheetmetal support for instance to affix one or possibly two guides 6'', 7''.

Please amend the specification at page 8, line 20 through page 9, line 5 as follows.

With respect to [As regards] the embodiment of Fig. 3, the mounting structure 2 consists of several parts and illustratively includes [a] sheetmetal supports 15'' for the drive means 4'', for the braces 17'' supporting the reversing rollers 10 and further [support sheetmetals] sheetmetal supports for instance to affix one or possibly two guides 6'', 7''. Otherwise the design is similar to that of the other embodiments. The embodiment shown in Fig. 3 also makes it easily possible to guide only one of the two actuators 12'', 13'' in a guide 6'', 7'' and to affix the other actuator in unguided manner to the corresponding cable segment 3'', 5''. The elimination of a guide 6'', 7'' for one of the two actuators 12'', 13'', or slide elements, however does not entail a significant reduction of the stability, i.e. guidance properties of the window lift of the invention because the two actuators 12'', 13'', or slide elements, are connected to each other by the rigid coupling 11'', i.e. the crossbar 14''.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 5, 6 and 8 as follows.

1. (Amended) A motor-vehicle window lift for lifting a window pane from a lower position to an upper position comprising a mounting structure (2), a drive [means] system (4) for actuating a lift operating condition, a cable system (8) having two cable segments (3, 5) running substantially parallel to each other when said window pane is lifted from said lower position to said upper position, several reversing rollers (10) for the cable system (8) and two actuators (12, 13) for the window pane, each affixed to a respective one of the cable segments (3, 5), said two actuators (12, 13) being displaceably guided respectively [in a first guide] along first and second guides (6, 7) on the mounting structure (2), wherein

the two actuators (12, 13) are rigidly connected to each other by a rigid coupling (11) such that the actuators are non-movably and non-pivotally fixed to the rigid coupling [in a lift operating condition].

5. A motor-vehicle window lift for lifting a window pane from a lower position to an upper position comprising a mounting structure (2), a drive member (4), a cable system (8) having two cable segments (3, 5) running substantially parallel to each other when said window pane is lifted from said lower position to said upper position, several reversing rollers (10) for the cable system (8) and two actuators (12, 13) for the window pane, each affixed to a respective one of the cable segments (3, 5), at least one [actuator] of said actuators (12, 13) being displaceably guided in at least one [of first and second guides] guide (6, 7) on the mounting structure (2), wherein the two actuators (12, 13) are connected to each other by a rigid coupling (11) such that the actuators are non-movably and non-pivotally fixed to the rigid coupling in a lift operating condition, and wherein

a second actuator is affixed to one of the cable segments (3, 5) remote from the [first and second guides] at least one guide (6, 7) such that said second actuator is not guided by said [guides] guide (6, 7).

6. A window lift as claimed in claim 5, wherein the two actuators (12, 13) each are displaceably guided in [said] first and second guides (6, 7), respectively[, on the mounting structure (2)].

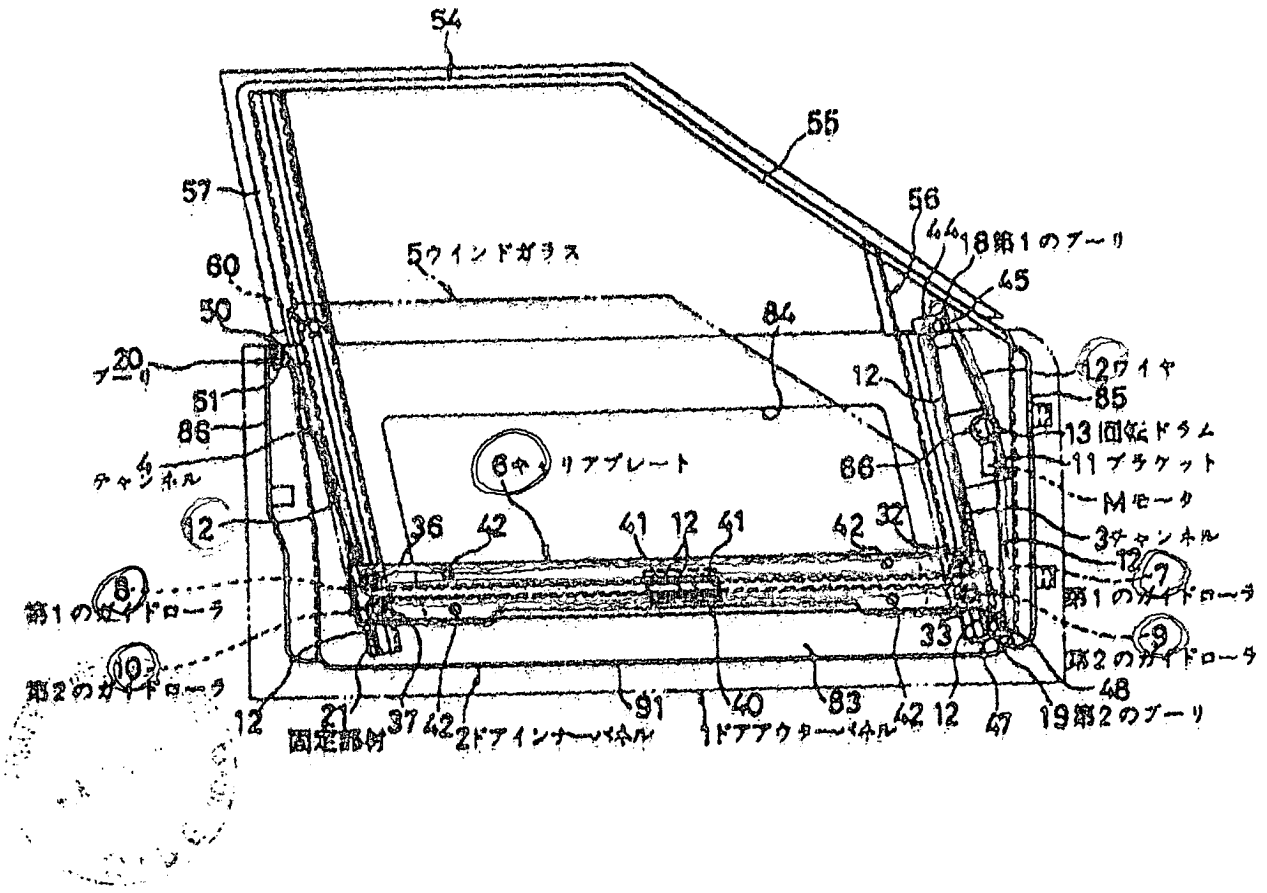
8. A window lift as claimed in claim 5, wherein the [first and second guides are] at least one guide is secured by at least one of screws, rivets and welds onto [screwed, riveted or welded into] the mounting structure (2).

Please add new claim 13 as follows.

13. A motor-vehicle window lift for lifting a window pane from a lower position to an upper position comprising a mounting structure (2), a drive system (4) for actuating a lift operating condition, a cable system (8) having two cable segments (3, 5) running substantially parallel to each other when said window pane is lifted from said lower position to said upper position, several reversing rollers (10) for the cable system (8) and two actuators (12, 13) for the window pane, each affixed to a respective one of the cable segments (3, 5), said two actuators (12, 13) being displaceably guided respectively along first and second guides (6, 7) on the mounting structure (2), wherein

the two actuators (12, 13) are rigidly connected to each other by a rigid coupling (11) such that the actuators are non-movably and non-pivotally fixed to the rigid coupling, and the window pane is connected to the actuators (12, 13).

【図１１】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13回転ドラム
6サッシュリアプレート
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7
第1のガイドローラ
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第1のガイドローラ
33
9
第2のガイドローラ
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第2のガイドローラ
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2ドアインナーパネル
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12
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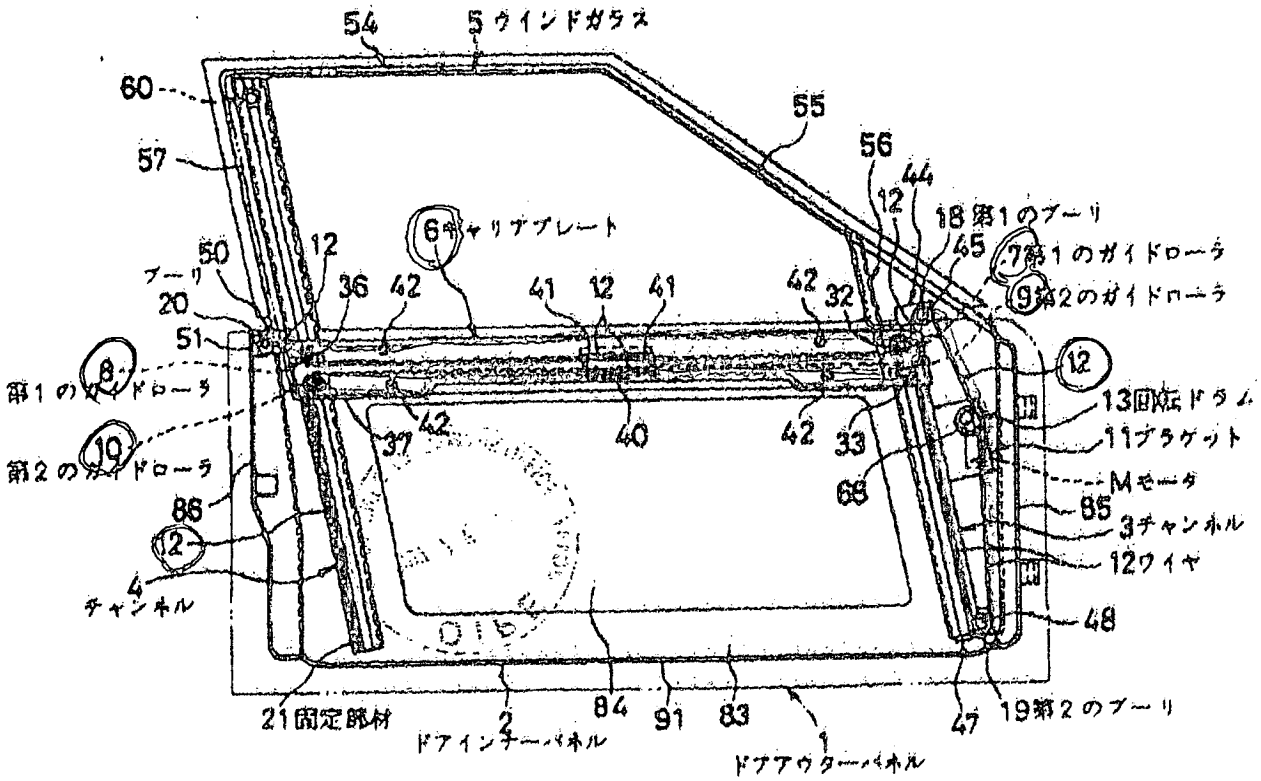
固定部材

【図２】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第1のガイドローラ
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13 回転ドラム
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11 ブラケット
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第2のガイドローラ
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19 第2のプーリ